

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL INTELLIGENCE

DIRECTIVE NO. 8¹

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION

(Effective 17 February 1972)

For the purpose of ensuring the most effective, timely and economic exploitation of photography as a source for foreign intelligence relating to the national security, and pursuant to Section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, the National Security Council hereby directs that the following policies, responsibilities and procedures shall be recognized and established:

1. *Policies*

To ensure that the capabilities of the departments and agencies represented on the United States Intelligence Board are most efficiently utilized for the foreign intelligence exploitation of photography, the following basic principles shall apply:

a. No complete separation of interest is possible or desirable in photographic intelligence activities.

b. Departments and agencies represented on the United States Intelligence Board shall continue to be individually responsible for photographic interpretation and the production of photographic intelligence in support of established departmental or agency responsibilities and the utilization of such photography and related collateral information in the production of intelligence, such as, warning intelligence, orders of battle, estimates, technical intelligence, precise geodetic data, targeting, maps, charts, matrices or other targeting materials and related research and development.

c. To promote an integration of effort and to avoid unnecessary duplication and expense, a coordinated interdepartmental approach to the exploitation of photographic intelligence shall be established.

d. Subject to applicable security measures and on a "need-to-know" basis, there shall be full interchange of all pertinent photographs and photographic intelligence analysis among the departments and agencies concerned.

e. Certain photographic intelligence functions can be best performed as a central service of common concern, for the maximum benefit of the entire intelligence community.

2. *Centralized Responsibilities*

a. A National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) shall be provided as a service of common concern by the Director of Central Intelligence.

(1) The Director of the National Photographic Interpretation Center shall be designated by the Director of Central Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense.

¹This Directive supersedes NSCID No. 8 dated 18 January 1961.

REMAINDER OF DOCUMENT EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE.

NSC Declassification/Release Decision on File